



# ICC Smart Tips on Safe Digging

**Before you start digging on projects  
large or small, Call 8-1-1**



Every few minutes an underground utility line is unintentionally damaged from those who fail to request that an underground utility line be located and marked prior to digging, often causing service interruptions, personal injury or even death, and affecting the environment.

Before you begin ANY outdoor project that requires digging, homeowners and excavators are reminded to call 8-1-1 to have utility lines marked. This is a FREE service, but state law requires residents and professional excavators to call 811 at least 48 hours or two working days prior to starting an excavation. The project must begin within 14 calendar days from the call, and locate requests have a 28-day life. A few examples of when to call 8-1-1:

- Planting a garden, tree, or other landscape project
- Installing a mailbox or a pool
- Building a garage, deck, or home addition

**Regardless of the depth and size of your project, you must call 8-1-1!**

The State One-Call Center, managed by [JULIE \(Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators\)](#) and [DIGGER within the City of Chicago](#), is a twenty-four-hour service network system established to protect underground pipelines, cables, and wiring, as well as the health and safety of those working and living near underground utilities.

The ICC One-Call Enforcement Team investigates reported violations and may issue citations and possibly assess penalties for failure to follow the law. To learn more about the One-Call Enforcement Process or to report a suspected violation visit the ICC [website](#).

